

Dredge Facts Cheat Sheet

THE DREDGE ITSELF

- The hull of the dredge is 52'x120'x11"
- The Dredge itself weighs 1250 tons.
- The bucket line has 72 one ton buckets that can hold 9 cubic feet of debris and runs at about 25 buckets per minute and could dig to a depth of about 13 feet.
- The debris is sifted thru a 6' diameter by 36' long trammel with ¾ inch holes.
- The Stacker that dispersed the debris out the back is 96' long.
- 4200 square feet of sluice tables were used to capture the gold.
- The dredge was powered by electricity from the Fremont power plant approximately 12 miles over the hill. The power was brought over by a 23,000 volt line to a portable substation where it was stepped down to 2,300 volts to run the dredge.
- Approximately seven electric motors were needed to power the dredge: Two 250 hp motors for the gear systems, four 75 hp motors to power the water pumps and turn the tomme, and one 45 hp motor for moving the stacker belt.
- Water was pumped through the dredge using two 10" Pumps and one 6" pump at a rate of about 8000 gallons per minute.
- Columbia Steel Company out of Portland, Oregon supplied most if not all of the steel castings used for the buckets and gears on the dredge. This company is still in existence today
- The water pumps were from the Bingham company in Portland, Oregon. This company operates under the name "Willamette" today.

THE JOURNEY OF THE DREDGE

- The Dredge was built about five miles south of the town of Sumpter.
- Over its life, it covered about 2500 acres or a stretch of land about a mile wide and eight miles wide
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- Averaged 280,000 cubic yards per month or about 10 acres.
- The pond which was dug for the dredge moved with it through out its journey therefore it actually brought its pond with it. The dredge last operated on the spot it now sits.

THE MONEY FACTS

- The dredge cost approximately \$350,000.00 to build.
- The decision to start the dredging was influenced when President Franklin D. Roosevelt raised the price of gold from \$20.00 an ounce to \$35.00 an ounce in 1934.
- The Dredge recovered \$4.5 million dollars in gold (at \$35.00 an ounce), which is \$128.5 million at \$1000.00 an ounce.
- The winch man made \$1.10 per hour after WWII, \$4.50 per day prior to WWII
- The Oilers made ninety cents per hour after WWII.
The Average cost of running the dredge was 20,000 a month. This varied before and after WWII.

THE BELL SYSTEM

- 1 long 1 short = step ahead
- 2 long = start
- 1 long = stop
- 4 long = stern oiler to winch room
- 5 short = bow oiler to front deck
- 3 long = bow oiler to winch room
- 1 EXTRA long = Big Rock Coming